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MARITIME TRANSPORTATION

June 14, 2005

**CONGRESSMAN ROB SIMMONS**  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
SECOND DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-218, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Lewis:

As the Transportation, Treasury, HUD Appropriations Subcommittee prepares to mark up its fiscal year 2006 funding bill on Wednesday, I respectfully request that the Committee include funding for Amtrak.

With hundreds of workers and thousands of riders, Connecticut relies every day on a healthy and efficient passenger rail service to sustain our way of life. Located halfway between the urban centers of New York City and Boston, and paralleling Interstate-95 through the entire eastern half of the state, the Amtrak line in my district is especially critical to the quality of life of my constituents and the health of our local economy.

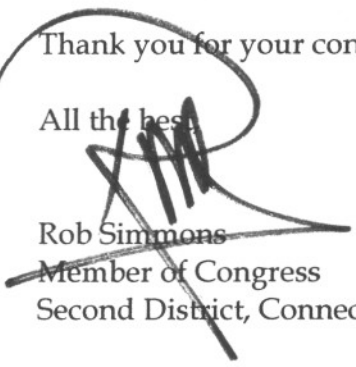
Mr. Chairman, were Amtrak to cease operations the ripple effect on my district would be near catastrophic. Hundreds of workers and their families would be without a source of income. Thousands of riders would be forced to use an already-clogged I-95 or equally congested local roads, and millions of commuters and business in my district and throughout the state would be impacted.

Passenger rail in my district and throughout the heavily populated Northeast Corridor cannot survive without federal support. Mr. Chairman, I hope you agree this federal investment is appropriate given the importance of moving people across an entire region safely and efficiently.

As you take up the Transportation, Treasury, HUD appropriations bill for fiscal year 2006, I again urge you to ensure that Amtrak continues to receive that vital support. My district and my constituents are depending on it.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued leadership.

All the best,

  
Rob Simmons  
Member of Congress  
Second District, Connecticut

*We appreciate your  
leadership and request  
your-kind consideration!*

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